GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5496
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2007
EXPORT OF STONES
Barman Shri Ranen

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of natural stones like granite/marble/sand stone exported during 2005-06 and 2006-07 and the percentage of such products obtained in quarries adopting by blast method;

(b) whether the Government proposes to modernize the extraction process instead of depending on blast methods in view of the increasing demand from international market;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the initiative taken by the Government in this regard ?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA)

(a) to (d): As per available information, the total value of exports of granite, marble, sand stone and other products during 2005-06 and 2006-07(April to September 2006) was Rs. 456198.84 lakhs and Rs. 298984.05 lakhs respectively, and the natural stone quarrying industry in India to a large extent is using the latest technology of controlled blasting which causes least damage to the stones. This technology is used in advanced countries like USA, Sweeden, Canada, Australia etc.. Granite, Marble, Sand stone and other building stones are minor minerals. The government has notified Granite (Conservation & Development) Rules in 1999 and Marble Development & Conservation Rules in 2002 for conservation, systematic development and scientific mining of granite and marble in the country. State Governments have been empowered to make rules for regulating the grant of quarry leases, and mineral concessions in respect of minor minerals and for purposes connected therewith.